

MINUTES

Justice Coalition – August 11, 2022

Present In-Person: Judge Baker, Dave Ladick, Jeanne Dodge, Stan Potocki, Andrew Rockman, Shaun Przybylski, Judge Molepske, Mayor Mike Wiza, Judge Zell, Lisa Roth, Mike Rottier, Ben Beaudoin, Sheriff Mike Lukas, Kate Hanson, Penny Borski, Ronnie Leach, Andrea Starr

Present Virtually: David Ray, Kris Leonhardt

Judge Baker called the Justice Coalition meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. in Conference Rooms 1&2, Portage County Annex.

Introductions of Judge Zell, Judge Molepske, and District Attorney Cass Cousins to the Justice Coalition were completed.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the January 20, 2022 Meeting

Baker asked for edits or corrections to the January 20, 2022 minutes. Motion to approve the minutes by Ladick, seconded by Dodge. Motion to approve the minutes was passed.

2. Discussion/Possible Action: - Request for Special Meeting Attendance: - Approval of Attendance of Special Meetings; - Special Meeting Attendance Report

No special meeting attendance requests or sheets were submitted for action.

3. Update on Pretrial Programming

Starr gave an update regarding enhancing the Day Report/Pretrial Programming. Starr has asked for ARPA funds to assist in funding the changes to the programs and also requested additional funds during the 2023 budget hearing. Starr indicated that no grants are available for pretrial programs and TAD funds do not qualify for this type of programming. Funding would be through tax levy. Discussion took place regarding possible revenue streams, i.e., surcharges, net new construction.

Starr referenced long term statistics that show that the longer a person is incarcerated, the increased chance a person could recidivate. The “payoff” will show in 10-15 years with the possible decrease in recidivism rates.

Baker gave examples of how this type of pretrial program works in other counties.

Motion by Wiza was made that a letter of request to fund the changes to the pretrial program, written by Judge Baker, be sent to the County Executive, Finance Committee, and County Board Supervisors. Molepske amended the motion to include an RFP from JusticePoint on the costs of the program. Motion to approve was passed. Ladick and Dodge abstained.

4. Proposed Pretrial Fee Policy

Starr reviewed the Pretrial Fee Policy and asked if the Coalition would adopt the language to allow the policy to be added to the policy and procedure manuals for Day Report and Pretrial Services programming. It was recommended that the policy reflect this policy does not include the Diversion Program in the District Attorney’s Office.

Motion to approve by Wiza, seconded by Ladick. Motion to approve was passed.

5. Moving Pretrial GPS to Justice Programs

Starr indicated that Justice Programs would like to explore moving pretrial GPS to Justice Programs as this is an underutilized program at the Sheriff's Office. The Justice Coalition Executive Committee recommended that Starr and Jamie Kiener meet to look at what this program may look like if it were moved to Justice Programs.

Sheriff Lukas indicated that in the past pretrial GPS was used; however, the cost falls upon the Sheriff's Office because fees cannot be charged to the individual. Sheriff Lukas stated that the cost is more than just the cost per day to have an active GPS; it is assessment and staff time. Additionally, the Sheriff stated that pretrial GPS is a good program to have and if the Courts are looking to have this program, he would recommend that it be through JusticePoint as the Sheriff's Office would not be able to cover the additional costs.

Baker stated that pretrial GPS would be a good option to have to be able to keep individuals within the community, so they are able continue to work, but still have some accountability.

6. Nalox-Zone Box Placements within the Community

Starr stated that she would like to get Nalox-Zone boxes within the community, especially into the outlying areas. Ladick suggested that each Fire Chief be contacted to see if they would be interested in having a Nalox-Zone box. Lukas indicated that the jail does offer Narcan to inmates when they are discharged. HHS also has Narcan, syringe exchange, and fentanyl test strips. Starr has asked HHS for fentanyl strips to distribute specifically to Treatment Court participants; however, at this time they can only be dispersed through HHS since they are a part of a specific program that supplies the strips.

Starr indicated that Wood County Jail has had Nalox-Zone box available for some time and it is the most utilized box in the state of Wisconsin.

The Sheriff's Office and the Stevens Point Police Department have agreed to have a Nalox-Zone box in their entry way and are waiting for installation.

Wiza stated that he is frustrated that more money is not spent on treatment programs.

7. Creation of Work Group to add OWI 2nd

Starr stated that Anne Renc from the Public Defender's Office asked that the Justice Coalition look into adding OWI 2nd with a high BAC into the Pretrial Supervision Program. The Justice Coalition Executive Committee agreed that a work group should be created and Renc agreed to chair the work group. A meeting will be scheduled in September 2022.

Starr, Jamie Kiener, Penny Borski, Jed Dodge (District Attorney's Office), and Anne Renc will be in the work group. Judge Zell volunteered to participate in the work group.

8. Treatment Court Update

Starr stated that the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) grant has changed their application process in that a preapplication needs to be completed prior to the application. The preapplication needs to be completed by August 19, 2022. TAD does have additional money for 2023 and Starr will not be requesting additional funds. Starr has met with the Finance Department regarding funding a part-time peer support specialist and that may be able to happen due to the fact that TC is good about billing insurance/MA which is helping to cover the cost of certain services.

Starr indicated that referrals have increased to Treatment Court and several individuals are awaiting sentencing into TC.

Roth asked if an Alumni Group is occurring. Baker indicated that she has asked former TC staff to facilitate the Alumni Group; however, the Treatment Team consensus is that the Alumni Group needs to be started/facilitated by TC alumni. Baker questions if alumni have the skill set to facilitate a group

9. Topics to be Considered for Future Meetings

None.

10. New Dates for Justice Coalition and Justice Coalition Executive Committee

Justice Coalition: November 10th

Justice Coalition Executive Committee: September 22, 2022. Judge Zell stated that 9/22 is the District 9 Judge's Meeting. Baker stated that another date will be found.

With no further business to come before the Coalition, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Starr
Justice Programs Director/Recording Secretary